UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/52/L.17
11 November 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 97 (g)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/104 of 20 December 1995 and all other relevant Assembly resolutions on the integration of women in development, and also the resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the integration of women in development,

Reaffirming that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the significant contribution that women make to economic activities and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas, such as agriculture, industry and services,

Aware that the continued discrimination against women, their continued lack of equal access to education and training and credit facilities, and their lack of control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production impede their full contribution to, and opportunity to benefit from, development,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Recognizing that discrimination in education and training, hiring, remuneration, promotion and horizontal mobility practices continues to restrict employment, economic, professional and other kinds of mobility for women striving to reach their potential,

Reaffirming that investing in the development of women and girls has multiplier effects on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, have resulted in the rapid feminization of poverty, especially in rural areas and among female-headed households,

Reaffirming that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace, and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing the adverse impact of structural adjustment programmes on women, especially in terms of cutbacks in social services, education and health and the removal of subsidies for food and fuel,

Aware that, although globalization and liberalization processes have created employment opportunities in some countries, they have also created risks and increased the marginalization of developing countries, particularly with regard to women,

Recognizing that the informal sector is a major source of entrepreneurship and employment for women in developing countries and that its important contribution should be included in labour-force statistics and standard national accounts,

Expressing its concern about the virtual absence or poor representation of women in economic decision-making, including the formulation of monetary and fiscal policies and rules governing pay,

Emphasizing the promotion of programmes aimed at financial intermediation with a view to facilitating and increasing rural women's access to credit and to agricultural inputs and implements and, in particular, to easing collateral requirements for access to credit by women,

Stressing that the lack of a family-friendly work environment, including appropriate and affordable childcare and inflexible working hours, further prevents women from achieving their full potential,

Stressing that neglecting a gender perspective in policy formulation and implementation exacerbates the feminization of poverty and economic inefficiency and has a high social cost,

Noting the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, particularly the funds and programmes, in facilitating the advancement of women in development,

1. Reaffirms the urgent implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[1] and the relevant provisions contained in the outcomes of all other major United Nations conferences and summits;

2. Stresses that a favourable and conducive international and national economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

3. Calls upon all Governments and all actors of society to implement the commitment made in Beijing to create an enabling environment through, inter alia, removing discriminatory barriers and ensuring the full and equal participation of women in economic activities through, inter alia, the adoption of gender-sensitive policies and legal measures and the provision of other necessary structures;

4. Also stresses the importance of developing national strategies for promoting sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities to generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

5. Urges Governments to develop and promote methodologies for incorporating a gender perspective into all aspects of policy-making, including economic policy-making;

6. Stresses the need to ensure full and equal access for girls and women to education, vocational training and retraining programmes for improving their employment opportunities;

7. Urges all Governments to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources and to increase women's access to credit by instituting innovative lending practices, including practices that integrate credit with services and training for women and that provide flexible credit facilities to women, in particular rural women, women in the informal sector, young women and women who lack access to traditional sources of collateral;

8. Invites Governments to undertake legislation and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology;

9. Requests Governments to ensure that women's priorities are included in public investment programmes for economic infrastructure, such as water and sanitation supply, electrification and energy conservation, transport and road construction and to promote greater involvement of women beneficiaries at the project-planning and implementation stages to ensure their access to jobs and contracts;

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[1] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

10. Urges Governments to promote and strengthen micro-enterprises, new small businesses, cooperative enterprises and expanded markets and other employment opportunities; to facilitate, where appropriate, the transition from the informal to the formal sector, especially in rural areas; to provide outreach programmes to inform low-income and poor women, particularly in rural and remote areas, of opportunities for market and technology access; and to provide women with assistance in taking advantage of such opportunities;

11. Calls upon Governments to develop strategies aimed at promoting sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities for income-generation among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

12. Calls upon Governments to ensure, through legislation, family-friendly work environments and to promote the facilitation of breast-feeding for working mothers;

13. Urges the international community, the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to give priority to supporting the efforts of developing countries to ensure the full and effective participation of women in deciding and implementing development strategies, through, inter alia, women's increased access to health care, capital, education, training and technology, and wider participation in decision-making;

14. Urges multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies in support of national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women, in particular those in rural and remote areas;

15. Calls upon the United Nations system to provide adequate resources for operational activities in order to support developing countries in their efforts to integrate gender concerns into national programmes and to implement those programmes;

16. Requests the United Nations development system to work towards establishing a more coherent approach to its support for women's income-generating activities, in particular credit schemes;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session a sub-item entitled "Effective mobilization and integration of women in development";

18. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of the implementation of the present resolution and to cover in his report the impact of the globalization and liberalization processes on the integration of women in development and the implementation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in enhancing the participation of women in national development programmes.